

Message Text

SECRET

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ORIGIN SS-14

INFO OCT-01 CCO-00 RSC-01 FILE-01 SSO-00 ADP-00 EA-04 /021 R

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DRAFTED BY: S/ S- O: JSNYDER

APPROVED BY: S/ S- O: KAKURZE

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY TEHRAN IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 075889

TODEP 147

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, MOPS, CB

FOLLOWING SENT ACTION SECSTATE INFO USIA SECDEF CJCS CINCPAC

USSAG APRIL 22, FROM PHNOM PENH REPEATED TO YOU QUOTE:

S E C R E T PHNOM PENH 3810

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, MOPS, CB

SUBJECT: PRESS STORIES RE CIVIL WAR IN CAMBODIA

REF: STATE 075870 (NOTAL)

1. CONSIDER BRIEFING FROM WHICH REFERENCED REPORTING
CAME TO HAVE COMPLIED WITH AUTHORITATIVE COUNTRY
TEAM- DEPARTMENT POSITION ON NATURE OF ENEMY.

2. BRIEFING WAS BACKGROUNDER ON CURRENT MILITARY
SITUATION CONDUCTED BY PAO WITH ASSISTANCE ASSISTANT
ARMY ATTACHE. BECAUSE OF ABSENCE OF MOST OF PRESS AND
LIMITED TIME OF ATTACHE, BRIEFING BEGAN WITH
QUESTIONS PUT TO ATTACHE. IN RESPONSE TO QUESTION
ON FIGHTING IMMEDIATELY AROUND PHNOM PENH, HE INDICATED
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OPPOSING INFANTRY TO BE LARGEY KHMER INSURGENT, BUT SAID THEY CONTINUE TO BE ENCADRED, TRAINED, SUPPLIED AND SUPPORTED BY VC/ NVA, WHO ALSO GENERALLY MAN THE CREW- SERVED WEAPON. HE NEITHER SAID NOR INTIMATED THAT WAR HAS BECOME EXCLUSIVE CONTEST BETWEEN GUERRILLAS AND GOVERNMENT FORCES. LARGER NATURE OF CONFLICT WAS NOT TOUCHED UPON AT THAT TIME.

3. REST OF PRESS CAME IN AS ATTACHE LEFT. ORIGINAL QUESTIONER READ HIS NOTES TO THEM, AND FROM THEIR QUESTIONS POINT THEY WERE TRYING TO MAKE BECAME EVIDENT. PAO THEREFORE ENLARGED ON ROLE OF VC/ NVA, POINTING OUT THAT SAPPERS CONTINUE TO BE NORTH VIETNAMESE, AS EVIDENCED BY VC INVOLVEMENT IN FIGHTING ALONG MEKONG, RECENT INCIDENTS WHERE FROGMEN HAVE PLANTED CHARGES AGAINST BOATS MOORED IN PHNOM PENH, AND OCTOBER RAID ON CAPITAL. HE POINTED OUT THAT WITHOUT HEAVY LOGISTIC SUPPORT AND WITHOUT HANOI DIRECTION, INSURGENT MOVEMENT WOULD PROBABLY WITHER TO POINT WHERE FANK COULD COPE WITH IT OR IT WOULD EVENTUALLY COME TO TERMS WITH KHMER GOVERNMENT.

4. CONSIDER PRESS TO HAVE ENLARGED ON INITAL STATEMENT REGARDING FIGHTING IMMEDIATELY AROUND CAPITAL AND TO HAVE TAKEN IT OUT OF CONTEXT OF WHOLE BRIEFING.

5. OUR ASSESSMENT OF THE MILITARY SITUATION HAS NOT RPT NOT CHANGED. AS GIVEN MOST RECENTLY TO SFRC STAFFERS LOWENSTEIN AND MOOSE (PHNOM PENH 3807), IT IS THAT THE KHMER INSURGENTS HAVE BEEN FIGHTING WITH NVA/ VC LOGISTIC, ADVISORY AND INCREASINGLY DIRECT COMBAT SUPPORT. SWANK UNQUOTE PORTER

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*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** SECRET

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptoning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts:
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 22 APR 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: golinofr
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973STATE075889
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: O: JSNYDER
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: n/a
Film Number: n/a
From: SECSTATE WASHDC
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19730449/aaaaiuvw.tel
Line Count: 100
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ORIGIN SS
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: golinofr
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 21 DEC 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <21-Dec-2001 by shawdg>; APPROVED <25 FEB 2002 by golinofr>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: <DBA CORRECTED> srp 980128
Subject: PRESS STORIES RE CIVIL WAR IN CAMBODIA
TAGS: MOPS, PINS, CB
To: TEHRAN
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005